

Wisconsin Forestry Notes

December 2005

Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry

Comment on Forest Soil Disturbance Policy

As a condition for the certification of the Wisconsin State Forests by the Forest Stewardship Council, DNR is developing standards defining the limits of acceptable soil disturbance on the 500,000 acres of state forest land in Wisconsin.

The Division of Forestry has been working to develop a policy for state forests to comply with the Forest Stewardship Council's (FSC) Corrective Action Request (CAR) 2004.4, which required the Department to develop quantitative standards that define the limits of acceptable soil disturbances, such as soil compaction and rutting. The Department's intent is to incorporate the standards into a DNR handbook. The draft proposed standards are available for review at:
<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/Usesof/bmp/ruttingpolicy.htm>

As part of developing this policy, we would like to have your feedback. To meet the FSC deadline, we will need your thoughts and comments **by December 31, 2005**. Please send your comments to Carmen Wagner at: carmen.wagner@dnr.state.wi.us. If you have questions, contact Carmen at (608) 266-1667. Comments can also be mailed to Carmen Wagner at DNR, FR/4, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707.

On the webpage listed above, you will also find additional materials summarizing the impacts of soil disturbances and methods to avoid and repair soil disturbances. Avoidance is preferred over repair and mitigation due to the cost of implementing and maintaining these practices, the loss of forest productivity until repair or mitigation occurs, and the possibility that the soil degradation may not be able to be corrected.

"Marketplace Matters": A New Publication

We can provide supplies of a new publication titled "Marketplace Matters: Understanding the Economic Importance of Wisconsin Forests" for you to distribute.

Suggestions for holiday gift-giving: copies of the two forestry books produced last year or a subscription to the Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine.

The December 2005 issue of the *Wisconsin Natural Resources* magazine includes an 8-page supplement exploring the economic value of Wisconsin forests and the influences on the global marketplace. If you don't subscribe to this bi-monthly magazine produced by the Department, you can read the supplement online at <http://www.wnrmag.com/supps/2005/dec05/intro.htm>

If you would like to share copies of this new publication with your employees or clients, contact [Kirsten Held](#) (608-264-6036) to request a free supply of publication number FR-337-2005 for your use. The magazine makes a great holiday gift that keeps giving throughout the year! To purchase a subscription for yourself or someone on your gift list, visit <http://www.wnrmag.com/>

Speaking of shopping for gifts, don't forget that copies of two books produced last year are still available. You can purchase "*One Hundred Years of Wisconsin Forestry*," chronicling the evolution of sustainable forestry in Wisconsin, from the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association, P.O. Box 285, Stevens Point, WI 54481 (phone: 715-346-4798; e-mail: nbozek@uwsp.edu). "*In Grandpa's Woods*," a picture book for four- to seven-year-old children, is available from Trees For Tomorrow, 519 Sheridan Street East, P.O. Box 609, Eagle River, WI 54521 (phone: 1-800-838-9472 ; Website: <http://www.treesfortomorrow.com/shopping.htm>).

Survey of Wildfire Perceptions

Interviews of homeowners within the Cottonville Fire boundary indicated an awareness of the fire-prone nature of the area among newer and seasonal residents. A broader survey of Adams County property owners will begin next month.

On May 5, 2005, more than 3,400 acres of property and natural resources burned in the Cottonville Fire, the largest wildfire the state had seen in 25 years. Shortly after the fire, Division of Forestry staff began an assessment of properties within the fire boundary to determine why some homes burned while others survived. The Division asked the USDA Forest Service to assemble a team of wildfire experts to investigate the fire in greater detail, with the goal of determining what wildfire prevention, education, awareness, fuels reduction, and readiness activities had recently occurred in the area. A social scientist on the team interviewed residents in the fire boundary to determine their level of wildfire awareness.

Of the eight people interviewed, it seemed that the people who lived in the area for the shortest amount of time and the people who owned seasonal property were the most aware of the fire-prone nature of the area and actually had accomplished some fuels mitigation activities on their properties. To further investigate wildfire perceptions in Adams County, DNR forestry staff will be partnering with the Forest Service to conduct a countywide survey of property owners. The survey will be sent in mid-January to everyone with property in the Cottonville Fire boundary as well as a random subset of property owners throughout the county. Results of the survey will help improve our wildfire education and awareness efforts. For more information, contact [Jolene Ackerman](#) at 608-267-7677.

Wisconsin Assists Texas in Time of Drought

Texas has helped us during times of high fire danger and now we're lending Texas a helping hand during a drought period that has followed the hurricanes.

The Division of Forestry is sending more than a dozen people and pieces of firefighting equipment to Texas for a two-week assignment in early December during a time of drought and fire situation there. Texas has been experiencing a drought situation since the hurricanes came ashore earlier this year and their fuel types – grass, shrubs and mesquite – are highly flammable. While Wisconsin has provided out-of-state assistance in previous years, it is unusual to get a request this time of year. Of note is the fact that Texas provided operators for us several times in the past few years to get us through dangerous fire seasons when we were understaffed due to staff vacancies. These interstate partnerships are critical to being able to combat wildfires in the most extreme conditions.

DNR Recruiting Entry-level Foresters

DNR is looking for up to a dozen good foresters to fill vacancies. Applications are due January 6; details available [online](#).

Now that the new state budget is in place, the Division of Forestry is moving ahead to fill longtime vacancies. A recruitment period for a class of entry-level foresters is open now through January 6, 2006, with the new foresters starting in early June. If you know of quality foresters available for employment, encourage them to visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/employment/fte/> to learn more about the job and the application process. For more information, contact [Diane Brinson](#) at 608-264-9237.

"Wisconsin Forestry Notes" is a monthly electronic publication highlighting programs and activities of the Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry, Box 7921, Madison, Wisconsin 53707
Phone: 608-267-7494 [Paul DeLong](#), Chief State Forester [Kirsten Held](#), Editor

To add or delete yourself from this distribution list, send an e-mail with "Wisconsin Forestry Notes" in the subject line to: forestry.webmail@dnr.state.wi.us
